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# LETTER

To the Right Honourable the  
Lord \_\_\_\_\_;

Occasion'd by a Pamphlet just publish'd,

ENTITLED,

*Thoughts on the Affairs of Ireland.*

[ Price Six-pence. ]

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old old book

Brown leather

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To the Right Honourable the  
**Lord**      \* \* \* \* \* \* \* ,

Occasion'd by a Pamphlet, just publish'd,

E N T I T L E D,

*Thoughts on the Affairs of Ireland,*

With an Account of the EXPULSION of

*A----r J----s N----ll, Esq;*

Late Surveyor and Engineer-General,

From the Hon. the H—se of C-mm-ns in that  
KINGDOM.

*Tros Rutulusve fuat nullo discrimine habeo.*      VIR.

By M. B. DRAPIER.



*L O N D O N:*

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe*, in *Pater-noster-Row*.

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## LETTER

To the Right Honourable the

Lord —————, &amp;c.

MY LORD,

I Have read over the Pamphlet your Lordship put into my Hands, entitled, *Thoughts on the Affairs of Ireland*, and as you do me the Honour to desire my Opinion of it, shall give it your Lordship impartially.

I apprehend the Foundation of your Request was owing to my residing in that

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King-

Kingdom for some Time, which might enable me to form a clearer Judgment of the Disputes prevailing in the *Irish P—t*, than others who have never cross'd the Sea thither: And, indeed, the Knowledge I have of many of the Members of the H— of C—ns, and the frequent Opportunities I had of being present at their Debates, have entirely convinc'd me of the direct Falshood of the principal Position contain'd in this Writing, namely, *That the Irish are setting up for an Independency of England*, which the Author would insinuate to be the *sole Basis of all the Dissentions known on the other Side of the Water*, and talk'd on so much of *this*; and, with great Gravity, proposes to discuss the Question of Independency, by asking four more; or, to use his own Words, *to state some Questions, and give the Arguments on both Sides*, in order to determine impartially this Matter, and wishes his Capacity was equal to his Impartiality. As to the latter, I believe he has succeeded, and has got his Wish; for, to me, his Capacity and Impartiality seem to be pretty near equal, and upon a Par.

But

But before we come to these *ingenious Questions*, the Author begins with giving us an *History of Ireland*; and of the *Temper of the Natives*, under the several Princes from *Henry H.* to his present Majesty, which, from its frequent Allusions to *Bottles* and *Corks*, and to *Corks* and *Bottles*, may, with no Impropriety, be called a *Bottle-History* of that Kingdom, and the Author a *Bottle-Historian*, or a *Bottle-Conjuror*, if he should like that Title better. Whether or no he was led into this *inimitable Vein of Humour*, from the common Report that the *Irish drink* pretty freely, or that he began this elegant Piece of Reason at a *Tavern*, and over *his Bottle*, I cannot say; but this, I believe, many of his Readers will be inclined to think, he had *a Bottle in his Head* at the *writing it*; for my part I am of a contrary Opinion I must own, for we say of a Man in Liquor, that he is *a drunken honest Fellow*, and *speaks the Truth*, an Observation, I am afraid, will not be often made in the Perusal of *this History*: That the *Antients* thought in this Respect with us, appears from the following Lines in *Horace*,

*Reges dicuntur multis urgere Culullis,  
Et torquere mero, quem perspexisse laborant.*

I have another Objection, indeed, which has some Weight with me, namely, that had the Author been *drunk*, he would have *wrote better*, for Wine frequently gives *Life* and *Spirit* to the Imagination, neither of which appear *too prodigally dispers'd* throughout *this Work*; and, I know not whether it might not be said, with some Degree of Truth, that almost as many *good Things* have occasionally *flow'd* from the *Bottle*, as the *Pen*: But, that the Author had a *Bottle in view*, is evident from the first of his *History of Ireland*, for he tells us, King *Henry II.* was obliged to go over to *pull out the Corks*, to prevent breaking the *Bottles*. In the Time of *Henry VII.* the *Champagne began to froth again*, and some *Bottles were broke*. In the Time of *Henry VIII.* *Gerard, Earl of Kildare*, bottled up the *Champagne*, but that resolute Monarch *drew the Corks*, and saved the breaking of the *Bottles*. Then the *Wine was pretty quiet* till the Time of *Queen Elizabeth*, but her *Grace, who used now and then to swear and*

*kick*

*kick a little* (Delicacies which, by the bye, I never heard her celebrated for) *broke a Number of Bottles*, and drew the Corks of more, and they hardly froth'd again till King Charles I's. Time. Then comes Cromwell, *an ill-bred rough Fellow*, who went over to Ireland, and kick'd about, and broke above half the Bottles in the Kingdom; to this the facetious Author adds a very merry Remark, that he supposed he had Jack-boots on, for he don't find that the Glass cut his Shins: If the Reader don't laugh at this Piece of *Humour*, I'll promise him he'll not laugh at *any other* while the Book is in his Hands, but if he is not of a very *Saturnine Disposition*, he can't help laughing at *so good a Thing*; I am sure I did, and thought of the Author at the same Time. We come now to the Glorious and Immortal King *William*, who notwithstanding the *dreadful Havock* our Author tells us he made with the *Bottles* in *Ireland*, and banish'd 30, or 40,000 of 'em together to *France*, yet I have some Reason to believe has more *Bottles open'd*, if not drank, to his *Memory* in *Dublin*, than he ever transported to *Paris*. This Monarch, says our Author, was obliged to go over himself; he not only broke Bottles, and uncork'd  
the

the Wine, but sent 30, or 40,000 Bottles to France; this, he adds, was a wise Measure, since it prevented the flying of Corks, and breaking a Number of Bottles. As our Author tells us, this was a wise Thing, to be sure it was so, not but I am apt to think, if King William had never done a wiser, he would not have been held in such Veneration in that Kingdom, for I am certain, if I had been an Irishman, and I dare say, some few of the Gentlemen of that Country will be of my Opinion, I should have thought it very hard, if his Majesty would not have permitted us the Trial at least of finding out some Methods to prevent the flying of Corks, and breaking of Bottles, without sending the Wine to France; nor was England, which lies in the Way thither, much obliged to his Memory in not landing a few Bottles here; for I will venture to say, there were many Honest Fellows in London alive in those Days, who would have uncork'd his Liquor for him, as fast as he sent it in, and with as much Dexterity as any Frenchman of 'em all. But so much for History, says our Author, and indeed I think we have had enough of it. Now, says he, for the present State.

“ It is Sixty Years that *Ireland* hath been  
“ quiet. The Vines planted by King *William*  
“ produced an excellent *Cordial Juice*; but  
“ of late, the new *Wines* puff, and fume, and  
“ fly; then, he imagines the *Protestants* see  
“ not the *Consequences* of what is now be-  
“ ginning to be done, and therefore is per-  
“ suaded, that the *present Ferment* will all  
“ subside, upon their *calmly considering*, that  
“ it is *against* the *Interest* of every *English-*  
“ *man* in *Ireland*, (by which he means *Irish*  
“ of *English* Ancestors) to attempt *INDEPEN-*  
“ *DENCY*. Again, *Dean Swift* was the first  
“ since the *Revolution* that set up the Notion of  
“ the *INDEPENDENCY* of *Ireland*, and raised  
“ ill Blood, by persuading the Multitude, that  
“ *Ireland* had a *different Interest* from  
“ *England*, and ought to be *INDEPENDENT*,  
“ took up the Opportunity of *Wood's Half-*  
“ *pence*, (*a strong Instance in his Favour*)  
“ and blew up a general Flame, and tho'  
“ the Blaze was soon over, yet there *still*  
“ remains *Fire* under the *Ashes*; all this,  
“ and many other Things, he charges to the  
“ Account of *Dean Swift*, and his Patron  
“ *Lord Bolingbroke*; what *Views*, they had,  
“ says he, let every *Irish* as well as *English*  
“ *Protestant*

*"Protestant judge;"* which is *kind enough* in our Author, and has some Degree of *Modesty* in it too, in permitting the *People of Ireland* to be *Judges of their own Affairs*, and which must be look'd upon as an *Indulgence* from *one*, who seems to know them *so much better* then any of 'em, so we wdn't quarrel upon *this Head*, but e'en leave that *Matter*, as he desires, *to them*.

*"Sometimes, continues he, this latent Fire breaks out in Politics, about Places, or Members; then the discontented Party immediately takes up the Claim of INDEPENDENCY. Thus all the Uproars in Westminster for seven Years together were supported by the charming Word, INDEPENDENCY. If a Surveyor-General is accused by some, and defended by others, say, that it is for the INDEPENDENCY of the Kingdom to turn him out. If any one has a Mind to lessen the Prerogative of the Crown of Great-Britain in Ireland, all good Patriots must assist, for this is for INDEPENDENCY ;"* and then follow his decisive Questions.

1st, Is it JUST for the *present* Irish to desire to be INDEPENDENT of BRITAIN ?

2dly, Would it be ADVANTAGIOUS to Ireland to be INDEPENDENT of Britain ?

3dly, Could Britain be a great and flourishing Nation, if Ireland was an INDEPENDENT Nation ?

4thly, Would the great Powers on the Continent suffer Ireland, if undefended by England, to subsist as an INDEPENDENT and Protestant Nation ?

To all which *formidable* Enquiries, I readily Answer, No, and that there is not a Man of *Sense* or *Power*, on the *other* side the Water, that will not *join* with me in that *Answer*; nay more, that there is not an *Irishman*, of any *Figure* or *Understanding*, that will not, for *one* Reason or Argument the *Author* brings to prove his Questions, furnish him with *ten*, and he must not take it ill, if I say, more *Weighty*, more to the *Point*, and more *convincing* than any he has urged. The *Irish* in general, and I am sure

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*all that I have ever known, my LORD, and I had the Honour of being acquainted with many of the first Rank and Quality in that Kingdom, have far different Notions of their Connection with England, than this wild Author would insinuate; they are sensible to the last of the Protection they owe to England; they are conscious 'tis the Strength of England must confirm them in the quiet Possession of their Properties; they want not to be told, that 'tis the British Fleet alone that can preserve them from Foreign Insults, and from French Invasions; they know that Ireland could never defend itself, but must sink into a Province to some Arbitrary and powerful Prince upon the Continent; and are well informed, that in all Distresses, and on all Emergencies, they must look up to the Crown of England for Relief and Support, and to that alone; and that 'tis his M-j-sty, for whom they have the most ardent and unalterable Affection, and the British P———t, that must secure to them the uninterrupted Enjoyment of their Estates and Fortunes, the Safety of their Lives, the Exercise of their Rights and Privileges, the Continuance of their Freedom,*

dom, the Maintenance of an Establish'd Protestant Church, in a Word, the Religion, the Laws, the Liberties of the Kingdom. That this is the true Spirit which presides and directs in all their Councils and Debates, must appear to every impartial and unprejudiced Englishman, who shall read, and consider their Addresses in Part from Time to Time deliver'd to the Lord Lieutenant to be transmitted hither, in which the strongest and most nervous Assurances of their constant and invariable Affection and Loyalty to his M-j-sty, and deep Sense of the Advantages they receive from the protecting Power of England, are set forth in Language Sincerity of Heart could alone inspire, and only Souls warm'd with Gratitude could dictate. Even in the present Disputes, these Broils for INDEPENDENCY, (as our Author would have them stiled) who is there, can read the very last Speech made by that great Man, the Glory and Honour of his Country, the present Sp---k--r, when he presented the Bills to the Duke of D-rlt for the Royal Assent, who is there so lost to Truth, so prejudiced against Conviction, that will say, his Sentiments were the Sentiments of a

*Faction against England?* that they *breath'd out* the *Fire of INDEPENDENCY*, and tended to kindle *Flames* that might burn and blaze as far as *this our Island*; but, on the contrary, full of an *acknowleg'd Sense* for *Blessings* receiv'd from *England*, for *Acts* of *R-y-l Goodness* conferr'd by a *Gracious S-v-r--gn*, the *Adoration* of his *Subjects*, and all *Submission* and *Deference* to the *Gr-nd C-nc-l* of the *British Nation* in *P-rl--m-nt* assem-bled; so that I profess myself a Stranger to the *Motive*, or to what could possibly be the *Inducement* to this Writer, thus to tax a *Nation* with *Principles* they *abhor*, for he must in his *own Mind* be *convinc'd* of the *contrary* of what he *writes*, unless it be to *ingratiate* himself with *those*, to whom all *Acts* of *Public Spirit* are *offensive*, whose *Interest* it may be to cast *black Shades* on the *bright Sunshine* of *Virtue*, and whose *Power* must fly to *Fiction* and *Misrepresentation* of *Facts* for its *Support* and *Continuance*.

But as the *necessary Dependence* of *Ireland* upon *England* is a *Truth* so *universally allow'd* amongst the *Irish*, and so *generally known* amongst our *Countrymen*, I shall take

no farther Notice of the Contents of this impartial Work, but leave all the fine Reasonings of the Author upon his four Questions to the Admiration of his Friends and himself; or, to use his own Words, *with what Views he wrote, let every Irish as well as English Protestant judge;* for supposing only, what is the Fact, that the Irish are not setting up for an INDEPENDENCY of England, the whole Structure is demolish'd, his Building is a Castle in the *Air of his own rais'ng,* and exists no where but in his own Brain, and his learned Arguments only tend to convince the Irish of a Truth they knew before, and could perhaps better illustrate than the Author; I shall take it then for granted, and proceed no farther; but as the Author may not perhaps see this Matter so clearly, unless he has a Bottle before him, I will indulge him for once with his favourite Simile, and perhaps an Argument drawn from a Bottle will have some Effect.

We will suppose then a Child of six Years old, dining alone at a Table, with a Bottle of Claret before him; we all know if he drinks the Bottle 'twill make him drunk, and, if he breaks it, the Wine will stain the Cloth;

*Cloth*; but, if this *Bottle of Claret* should prove to be a *Bottle of Water*, we are very sensible it will do neither, the *Water* will not get into his *Head*, nor will it change the *Colour* of the *Cloth*: In like manner, all the *Conclusions*, however *just*, and *true*, and *demonstrable* they may be, which are drawn from a *Supposition of an Attempt for INDEPENDENCY in Ireland*, must fall to the *Ground*, if no such *Attempt* is really making; and the *Folly* of the *Irish*, the *Injustice* of the *Irish*, and the *Ingratitude* of the *Irish*, chargeable to them upon that Account, are Terms equally as applicable to the *banish'd Members of the French P—t at Soiffons*, as the *sitting Members of the Irish at Dublin*.

But your Lordship will perhaps now ask me, what the *Divisions* in the H—se of C-mm-ns in *Ireland* are really owing to, and expect that in Return for destroying one Fabrick, I should erect another. As briefly and as truly as I can, I will satisfy your Lordship in that Point, and endeavour to explain to your better Judgment the late Transaction of that Hon. H—se, in regard to Mr. N--v--ll's Affair, late Surveyor and Engineer-

*Engineer-General*, and which was and is the Occasion of the present *Disputes* in that Kingdom ; and this I am the more inclined to do, as I believe it is an Affair little understood in *England*, whether any Pains have been taken to perplex the Minds of Enquirers, and to lead them to see it in a wrong *Light*, I will not pretend to say.

The E--l of *H-rr-ngt-n*, who preceeded his Gr—e the D--ke of *D--rs--t* in the G--v--nm---t of *Ireland*, before he left that Kingdom, recommended to the P--rli--nt to grant a Sum of Money for the Repair of the Barracks, for the better Reception of his M-j-sty's Troops, his Exc--ll--ncy having been inform'd they were most of them in a *ruinous* Condition. The C--mm--ns immediately voted a Sum not exceeding 25,000*l.* (I think that was the Sum, my Lord, for I have not the Votes at present before me) for the Repair of the Barracks ; and the *conducting* of that *Affair*, and the *Management* of that Money, was, by a *Vote* of the *H--se*, entrusted to the Care of *A---r J---s N---ll*, Esq; as an *Officer* of the *Cr-wn*, being at that time Surveyor and Engineer-General.

His

His G--ce the D--ke of D--rſ--t succeeded the E--l of H--rr--gt--n in the *Adm----n* before the next *Session* of P--rl--m---t, at the *Meeting* of which, amongst other Things, his Gr--e in his Speech recommended to the C-mm--ns to enquire into the Affair of the Barracks, and the *Repairs done* to them. The C-mm--ns accordingly, after an Address of Thanks to the L--rd L---t-n--nt, and the *Dispatch* of the K--ng's Business, which was *forwarded* with all *Expedition*, and *passed* without *Debate*, proceeded to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole H--se, to enquire into the State of the *Barracks*, and how the Money voted by P--rl--m---t had been *applied* and *expended*.

Upon this Examination, which lasted some Weeks, it *appeared plainly* to the H--se, "That the *Publick Money* had not "only been *misapplied*, and no *just Account* "given of the *Disbursement* of it, but that "the Barracks themselves, as well *those* "that had been *rebuilt*, as *those* that had "been *repair'd*, were, at the *very time* of "this *Enquiry*, in a *bad Condition*, and by "no

" no means fit for the Reception of the  
 " King's Troops." To be more fully con-  
 vinced of the Truth of this, the H—se  
 ordered the Commanding Officers of every  
 Regiment on the Establishment, to send  
 up a *Return* to the H---se of the Con-  
 dition of the respective Barracks they  
 were quarter'd in, most of which, if not  
 all, made most heavy Complaints, and  
 in their several Returns, which, if I  
 mistake not, were upon Oath, alledged,  
 " That the Walls and Covering of their se-  
 " veral Barracks were not sufficient to pro-  
 " tect their Men or themselves from the In-  
 " clemencies of the Weather, and that few  
 " or none would keep out the Rain entire-  
 " ly." Several of the Barrack-Masters were  
 examined on this Occasion, who confirmed  
 the Report of the Officers: One of them I  
 remember, (for I was present) with some  
 Drollery, compared his particular Barrack,  
 which had been repair'd, " To an old Wh-e,  
 " who was painted on the Outside, and look'd  
 " shewy, but was rotten within." And  
 speaking again of it afterwards, said, " The  
 " Repairs were so slight, that a Force suf-  
 " ficient to pull an old Woman's Tooth out  
 " of her Head would pull his Barrack down  
 " about his Ears." In short, my Lord, it

was evident, beyond *Contradiction*, that not a Barrack was *properly repair'd*, or but very few, if any ; that the *Money voted* was *sufficient* to repair them *all* ; that *part* of the *Money* was not *accounted for*, but *visibly applied* to other *Uses*, and *embezzled* ; so, that when S-r R-ch-*rd C-x* had, with great *Clearness*, and with greater *Eloquence* than was to be expected from so *dry* a Subject, as *Brick*, and *Mortar*, *Masons* and *Carpenters*, recapitulated the *whole* of the *Evidence* as given before the Committee, *Day* by *Day* during this Enquiry, and at the *Close* of his *Speech* recommended to them to come to some *Resolutions* that might deter Officers of every kind, from *embezzling* the *Publick Money* hereafter ; the Committee immediately came to 16, which were pass'd *Nem. Con.* and being reported by the *Chairman* the next Day, were as *unanimously confirm'd* by the *H--se*.

In one of these Resolutions "the *Surveyor*  
" and *Engineer-General* was voted, to have  
" *embezzled* the *Publick Money* on such an  
" *Article.*" In another, that on such an  
Occasion "he had *defrauded* the Nation of  
" the

" the *Publick Money* ;" in another, " that  
 " he had acted without *Care, Judgment, or*  
 " *OEconomy* ;" in another, " that the Bar-  
 " racks were *unfit* for the *Reception*, and  
 " *dangerous* to the *Health* of his Majesty's  
 " *Troops.*"

After these, and others, in all amounting to 16 Resolutions, had been unanimously agreed to, Sir *A---r G---e* and Col. *R-ch-rd B---le*, moved the H--se again, and added two or three new Resolutions, by one of which, as the Money granted for this Service had been already voted *sufficient*, by way of *Punishment* upon the *Surveyor*, it was resolved as follows, by the whole H--se Nem.

*Con.*

" *March 6, 1752.*

" That *A-r J-s N---ll, Esq; Surveyor and Engineer-General, should at his own Expence, and without any further Charge to the Publick, be obliged to procure the several Persons with whom he hath contracted for the building, rebuilding, and repairing the Barracks, to make good the Defects of the Works by them respectively*

D 2      " *contracted*

" contracted for, and to stanch and finish the  
 " same in the most effectual Manner, so as to  
 " make the said Barracks fit and convenient  
 " for the Reception of his M-j-sty's Troops."

The H—se then voted an Address to the L—rd L—ut-n—t, " that *these Resolutions* " might be *transmitted* to his Majesty ;" and soon after broke up.

This, my Lord, is the *true state* of Mr. N—ll's *Affair*, as it stood at the *Conclusion* of the *last Sessions* of P——t; what has pass'd *since*, has been only in *consequence* of the *above Resolution*, and from the printed Votes of the H—se of C——ns, appears to be as follows :

" Nov. 2, 1753.

" The H---e was moved that the Reso-  
 " lution of the H---e of the fixth of *March*,  
 " 1752, should be read ; whereby it was  
 " resolved, that *A---r J---s N---ll*, Esq;  
 " Surveyor and Engineer-General, should,  
 " at *his own Expence*, and without any far-  
 " ther Charge to the *Publick*, be obliged to  
 " procure, &c. as above."

" Then

" Then it was resolved,  
 " That the H--se will, on this Day Fort-  
 " night, resolve itself into a Committee of  
 " the whole H--se, to enquire whether  
 " A--r J---s N---ll, Esq; late Engineer  
 " and Surveyor General *bath*, at his own  
 " Expence, without any farther Charge to  
 " the Publick, &c. &c."

" November 16.

" Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the  
 " Committee to enquire, whether A--r  
 " J---s N---ll, Esq; has used *any* and *what*  
 " Endeavours towards making good, &c."

Then the House resolved itself into the said Committee, and continued so to do several Days after, unto the 23d of November, 1753, on which Day Mr. J---n R--cbf---t reported from the said Committee the following Resolutions :

" That it appears to this Committee,  
 " that A--r J---s N---ll, Esq; late Engi-  
 " neer and Surveyor General, *bath not at his*  
 " *own Expence, and without any farther*  
 " *Charge to the Publick, procured, &c. &c.*  
 " *pursuant*

*" pursuant to a Resolution of this H--se  
" last Session of P--rl--m--t."*

*" That it appears to this Committee,  
" that A---r J---s N----ll, Esq; late Sur-  
" veyor and Engineer General, hath *not*  
" used reasonable and proper Endeavours to-  
" wards making good, &c. &c."*

To which Resolutions the House agreed.

Then Colonel R-ch--d B--le, seconded by J-hn C-le, Esq; moved, " That the said A--r J--s N--ll, Esq; late Engineer and Surveyor General, in *not complying* with the Resolutions of this H--se hath acted in *manifest Contempt* of the Authority thereof."

This being the Foundation for the Expulsion, which followed, occasioned a Debate which lasted till Ten at Night, when the Question was carried by a Majority of eight Votes.

And thus, my Lord, you see the *Foundation* too of this Charge of INDEPENDENCY, for this is the great Point, the carrying of which occasion'd such great *Rejoicings* in Ireland,

*Ireland, and so much Talk here ; and indeed if not to suffer the Publick Money to be made away with unaccounted for, if to disgrace the Officer that was proved guilty of misapplying it, if the providing for his Major's Troops, after their gallant Behaviour against the Enemy in the Field abroad, a safe Retreat at Home, and Beds of Comfort for Limbs wearied out in their Country's Service ; if constant Professions of their inviolable Attachment to their S-r-gn, and publick Assurances of their Deference to the British P-rl-m-t and C-c-l, be the Signs and Characteristics of an Attempt for INDEPENDENCY, I will then allow, the Irish are at this Time manibus pedibusque pursuing every Measure that can free them from all Connections with England, that INDEPENDENCY is the Voice of the People, the C-mm-ns and their Sp-k-r, the P-rs and their Ch-n-ll-r, and according to this Notion, of the L-d L---t himself at the Head of his C---l. I have the Honour to be,*

MY LORD,

*Your Lordship's most Obedient Servant,*

LONDON,  
Jan. 19, 1754.

M. B. DRAPIER.

## P O S T S C R I P T.

Your Lordship may perhaps imagine, from the above Proceedings of the H--se of C-mm-ns, that Mr. *N---ll*, who is stiled in the last Resolutions against him, *late Surveyor and Engineer General*, was *turned out of his Employment*, (as is hinted by the Writer of this Pamphlet, *P. 6.*) but *that was not the Fact*, my Lord, for he was allowed to *sell out*, after the P-rl--m--t broke up in 1752, for some Thousand Pounds.

F I N I S.

